

## DON'T FORGET!

- E-mail written testimony to [hstestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:hstestimony@cga.ct.gov)
  - Deadline to email: **by Thursday, Mar 10 @ 10am**
  - Email as an attachment with "In support of SB 284" in the subject line
  - Include in the email how you want to be identified in the public record, such as "member of xxx org, student at xxx school, resident of xxxx, or other identification"
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Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Fiona Paré, and I am from Willimantic. I am also an intern of Planned Parenthood Generation Action.

I stand in support of SB284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in making sure our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we all need and deserve. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

As a HUSKY recipient myself, I find it unfair that I am able to use this service simply because I was born in the United States. If these people have immigrated here, they deserve the rights of someone born here. This includes healthcare. I stand for the fact that healthcare is a basic human right and it is the government's duty to provide us with it. The 8 year old cut off is arbitrary. Why is a 9 year old not entitled to the same privileges? What if an 8 year old's illness ran into their 9th year? Then what? As someone who works in healthcare, and plans to pursue a professional career in it, this is unacceptable. Everyone deserves equal access to healthcare. You are depriving innocent children from adequate healthcare by denying them this right. I have volunteered with migrant farm worker clinics who have needed us to come diagnose them with diabetes, or high blood pressure, because they are immigrants and do not have the access to healthcare as other citizens. These can be life-threatening diseases. Children 9-18 can suffer from life-threatening diseases that can go undiagnosed and lead to disability or death. They deserve to be provided access to healthcare. This legislation would ease just one of the limitless worries immigrants face living in the country. I urge you to support this bill.

Once we allow the age to go to 18, we should not stop there. All immigrants, including parents and adults, should have equal and accessible rights to healthcare. Again, 18 is arbitrary, made up to be an "adult" by our government. Would you not consider a 19 year old a child? Are most 19 year olds able to provide for themselves and afford their own healthcare. We both know the answer is no. The state of Connecticut must create a long term plan to expand HUSKY access to our whole immigrant community. As the pandemic ensues, adequate healthcare is needed to vaccinate the general public and provide free COVID tests in order to stop the spread. Children will not maintain their health if their parents are unhealthy as well. We need to invest in the healthcare of society in order to thrive. The roots of humanity is generosity, and to deprive that of those simply not born in this country is unethical. I urge you to consider your reasoning behind limiting this bill to children.

I support S.B. 284 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,  
*Fiona Paré*